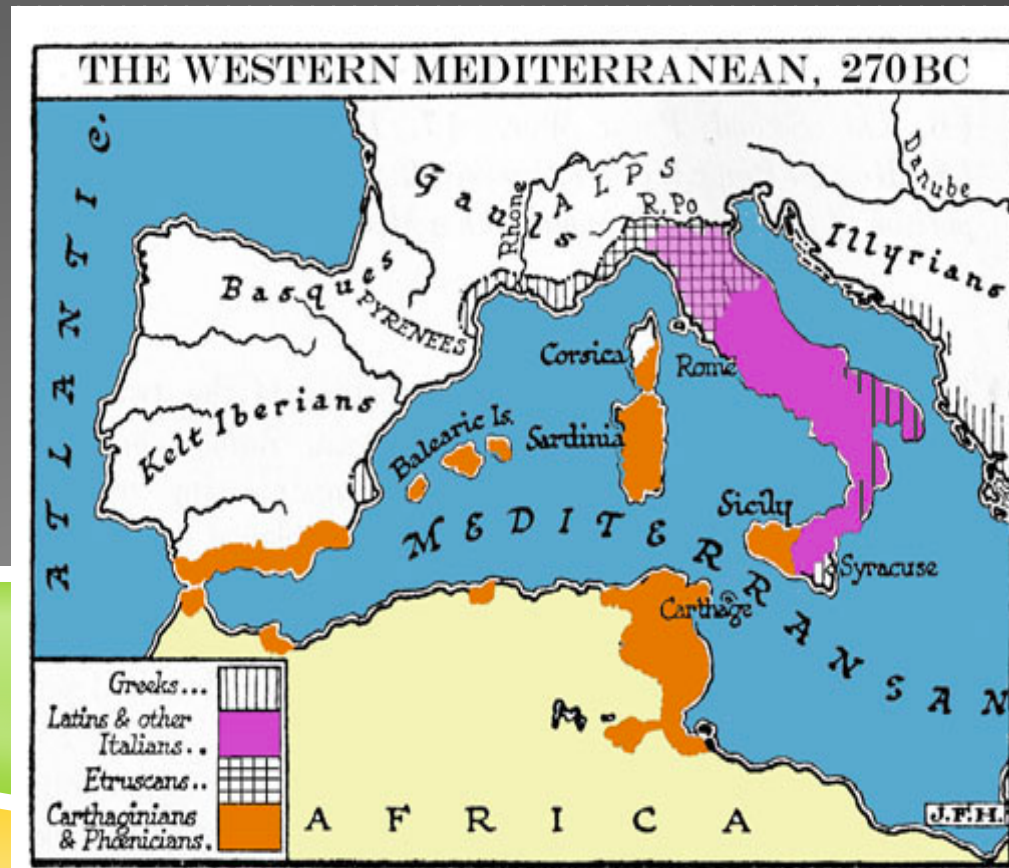


4.2 THE PUNIC WARS

264-146 BCE



Remember from last class...

The republic lasted for nearly 500 years and this period marked major expansion of Roman power.

During this time, Rome became the leading power in the Mediterranean.

They had many benefits to their location, which resulted in envious neighbours!!!

- Italian peninsula
- Rich agricultural land

The struggle for power over the sea intensified

Romes first territorial interest outside of Italy was North Africa.

The target was the Phoenician city of Carthage – this was a great naval city with ports on the Mediterranean islands of Sicily and Sardinia. **TRADE LINK!!!**

Sicily: island rich in wheat, could provide the republic with a valuable source of grain



The Carthaginians

They originally came from what is present day Lebanon (settled in North Africa).

The Romans considered them to be barbaric.

- Radical outlook
 - The gods they worshipped demanded child sacrifice!
 - They would sacrifice their young thinking it would bring them rain or provide power in battle



The Battles Begin

There are many speculations surrounding why the battles began between Rome and Carthage.

- Romans had a distaste for them because of their value of child sacrifice
- Naval threat – big navy power which was threatening for Rome
 - Trade link along the west coast of Italy

Rivalry and suspicion eventually led to three conflicts called the Punic Wars, named after *punicis*, the Latin word for Phoenician.

Punic Wars: Three Punic Wars (Rome vs. Carthage)

Ist Punic War

264 BCE- 241 BCE

Rome violates a treaty with Carthage and invades Sicily.

Rome vs. Sicily, Syracuse and Carthage

Rome wins and adds **Sicily** and **Syracuse** to its empire and destroys Carthage – they surrender



Results of the First Punic War

Rome won the First Punic War, but it didn't come without its own losses.

- The Roman army was valiant on land, but their naval forces fared badly
- To improve their chances, they designed a new fleet
- These boats were capable of hooking onto the side of enemy boats and the troops could pop onto enemy ships!
 - corvus plank

The fleet defeated Carthage off the western tip of Sicily. At the end of the war, Rome not only claimed the land where they would found their first province, but they also got some cash (3300 talents of silver)

- The empire's entire treasury

Second Punic War

218 BCE – 202 BCE

- During the First Punic War, the Carthaginian general, Hamilcar Barca (Hannibal's Dad!) had conquered parts of Spain.
- This resulted in growing suspicion from the Romans (surprise).
- The Carthaginian's continued to press further north in Spain and Rome demanded that Hannibal surrender the city... he didn't.....



"Oh, no! We knew Hannibal had elephants. We just didn't realise he was capable of launching them!"

According to legend, Hamilcar had made his young son Hannibal swear that he would be an enemy of Rome for life. He acted on this, and as the new general, he took offensive against Rome, launching a sudden invasion of the Italian peninsula.

- Hannibal takes ambitious journey from Spain with 40,000 troops and 37 elephants over Alps (the Romans thought that this was a defense barrier!)
- It took 15 days to get to the Po valley
- On the journey, he conquers most of Italian Peninsula with remaining 20,000 troops and 1 elephant – great losses!!

Battle of Cannae

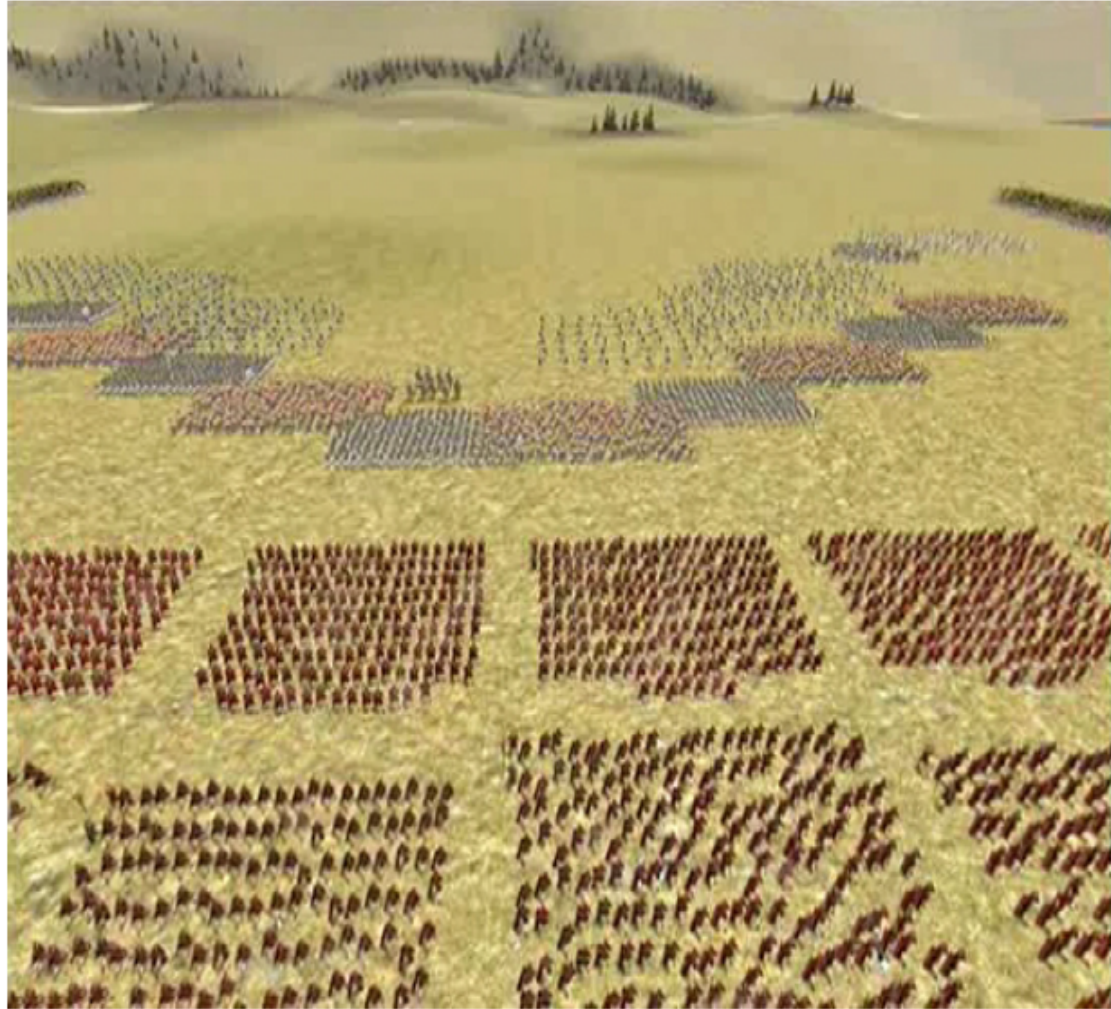
The Roman legions were suffering from serious losses in the Second Punic War

The worst defeat was the Battle of Cannae

- In this battle the Romans massed their infantry
 - 86,000 men – outweighing the army of Hannibal numerically

Hannibal was a great strategist

- Rome had their troops lined up heavily
- Hannibal used a crescent formation, surrounding and slaughtering the Romans
 - Killed 50,000 – over half!



Hannibal devised a trap. He had his troops line up in a crescent formation. He seemed to be inviting an all out attack on his outnumbered force.

Hannibal positioned himself at the most vulnerable part of the line, at the center where the fighting would be the fiercest.

Strangely, Hannibal left his best troops, the spearmen in reserve on the flanks of his army and positioned his cavalry (men on horses) on the wings.

Second Punic War Continued

For 15 years, the battle with Hannibal continued

- He managed to seize large areas of southern Italy
- First massive threat to Rome

Rome's greatest tactic was calling on a member of the Senate – Publius Cornelius Scipio

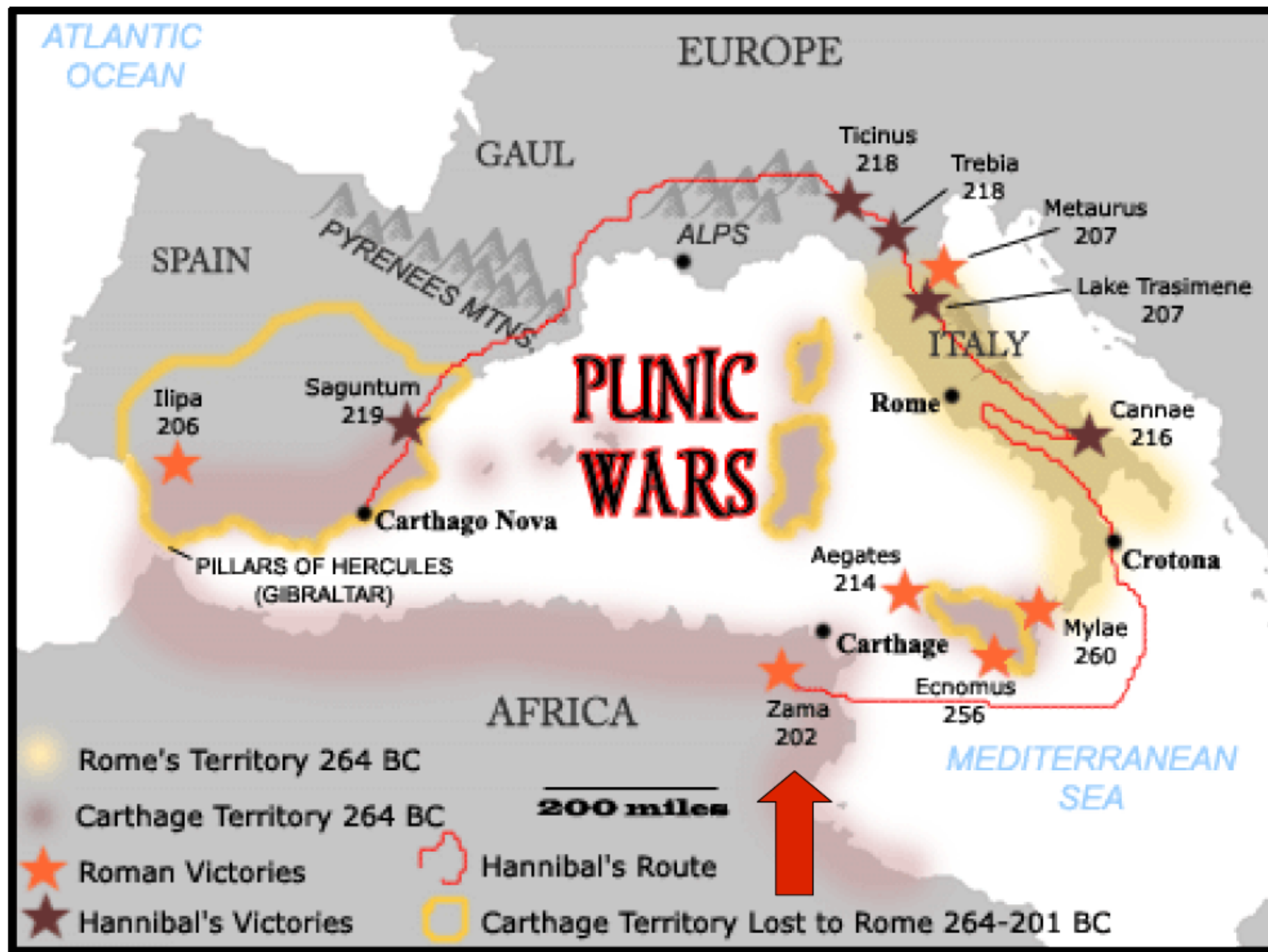
- Son of a general and survivor of Cannae
- Studied Hannibals tactics
- Came up with a plan – Roman troops would sail to Africa and invade Carthage

The Battle of Zama



Carthage had to respond, which brought back Hannibal from the 17 war in Italy

- The Two armies gathered outside of the ancient city of Zama



ZAMA

At this point, in Zama, the troops were quite even on both sides – roughly 30,000 men each.

- Hannibal had more elephants!
- Scipio had prepared his legions for this
 - The reason the Romans were crushed in Cunnae was because of their formation, Scipio wasn't going to let this happen again
 - Legions were placed into channels, forcing the elephants into certain directions

Results of Zama

Romans won!!!

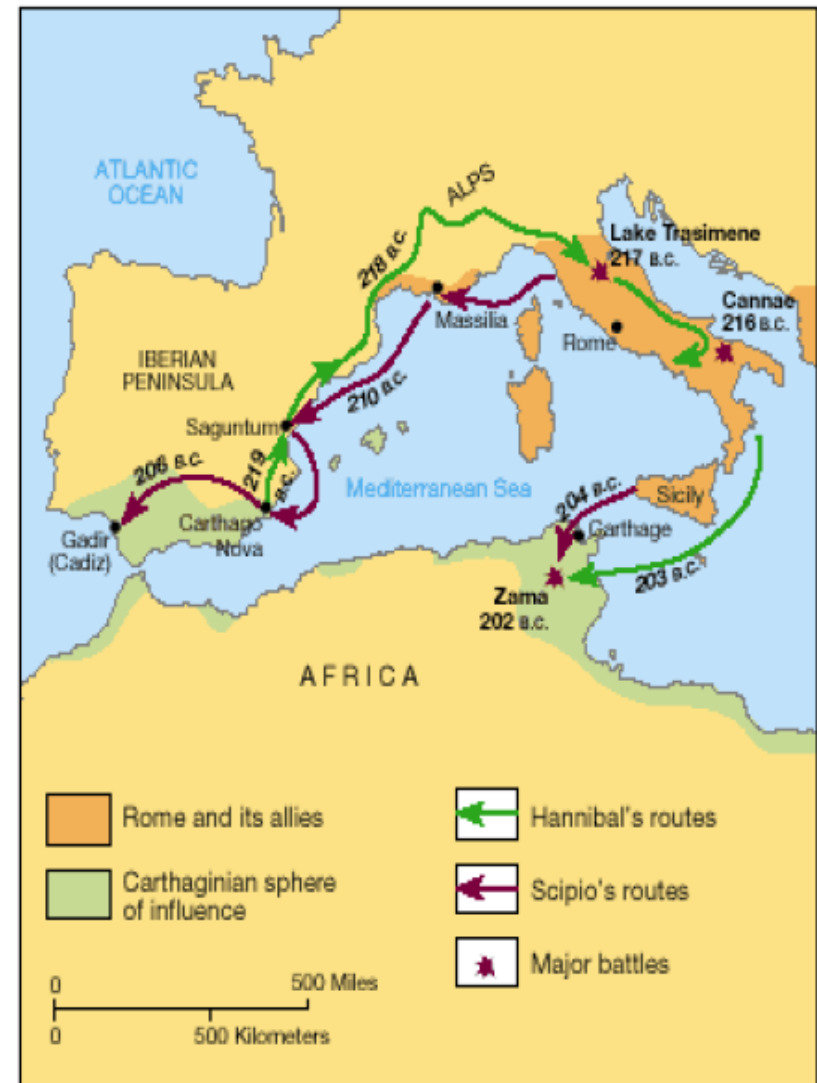
The Romans exacted a heavy toll on the Carthaginians, essentially stripping Carthage bare.


- They requested that Carthage pay back for the war reparations
- They dismantled their navy
 - The Carthaginians handed over their warships

Third Punic War

149 BCE – 146 BCE

- With the defeat of Hannibal in the Second Punic war, you would think that the Romans would have been happy
- They didn't want Carthage to resurface
- 50 years after Hannibal's defeat Roman legions went to Carthage and destroyed it for good.
- Burns Carthage to the ground, steals luxurious objects



 The Punic Wars. Rome's three wars against Carthage resulted in both its dominance of the western Mediterranean and the start of an empire outside of Italy.

What would salt have to do with the final defeat of the Carthaginians?



SALT?

Roman Success

Romans load the ground with salt so that nothing could be grown, ensuring them that civilization would not resurface there and pose a threat.

- Symbolic of the curse of sterility from the Romans

North Africa now becomes a province of Rome, resulting in Rome gaining control of the entire Mediterranean

Atlantic Ocean

